

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W

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P R 101611Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 8160

UNCLAS LISBON 5419

USINFO FOR IOP/M, IBS/PE

USIA WASHDC FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PO

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. KISSINGER TRIP: COVERAGE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TRIPS TO IRAN AND PAKISTAN CONTINUED IN AUGUST 10 PORTUGUESE PRESS. ON PAKISTAN, SALIENT ISSUES AS REPORTED BY PRESS WERE PRESIDENT BHUTTO'S DETERMINATION TO PURCHASE FRENCH NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT DESPITE POSSIBLE AID CUTOFF AND PAKISTAN'S DESIRE TO PURCHASE 80 TO 100 A-7 FIGHTER-BOMBERS, "CAPABLE OF REACHING PRACTICALLY ANY TARGET IN INDIA," ACCORDING TO "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS." KISSINGER'S COMMENT THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD "NOT RESORT TO BLACKMAIL" TO MAKE ITS VIEWS PREVAIL WAS NOTED BY PRESS. LIGHT COMMENTARY HAS APPEARED ON COMPLETED IRAN LEG OF TRIP, MOST OF IT CHARACTERIZED BY DOUBT AND UNEASE CONCERNING MASSIVE SIZE AND SOPHISTICATION OF IRANIAN DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT AND U.S. TIES TO IT. AN "O SEculo" COLUMNIST WRITING UNDER THE NOM DE PLUME "MONITOR" JUXTAPOSED COMPLEXITY OF NEW WEAPONS WITH HUMPHREY COMMITTEE REPORT THAT IRANIANS LACK THE NECESSARY SKILLS TO MAINTAIN THEM. THIS, HE STATED, IMPLIED EXTENDED U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN IRAN. "WHAT WILL BE THEIR

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REACTION," HE ASKED, "IF IN THE MEANTIME IRAN

BECOMES INVOLVED IN AN ARMED CONFLICT WITH A NIGH-BORING COUNTRY? WILL THEY COLLABORATE WITH THE WAR EFFORT OR RETIRE AT THE CRITICAL MOMENT?"
PRO-COMMUNIST "O DIARIO" WAS MORE HOSTILE: "WHO THREATENS PERSIA SO THAT SHE MUST ARM HERSELF TO THE TEETH? NO ONE . . . THE SHAH'S WEAPONS ARE TURNED AGAINST HIS OWN PEOPLE IN THE FIRST PLACE AND AGAINST NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN THE SECOND."

2. COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE: AUGUST 9 AND 10 PRESS CARRIED BRIEF REPORTS ON THE START OF THE COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. PRESS NOTED THAT LIKELY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WERE: THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER, SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE NEAR EAST, AND POST-WAR INDOCHINA. A LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY: MAURITANIA. AUGUST 10 "PRIMEIRO DE JANEIRO" PUBLISHED FRANCE-PRESSE ARTICLE DESCRIBING THE "ECLIPSE" OF THE 17-NATION COORDINATING GROUP BY THE ARRIVAL OF ASIAN COMMUNIST DDELEGATIONS. BOTH "DIARIO POPULAR" AND "A CAPITAL" PREDICTED "EASILY REACHED" ACCORDS ON ECONOMIC MATTERS BUT DIFFICULTIES ON POLITICAL ISSUES.

3. U.S. EVENTS: TREATED IN AUGUST 9 PRESS: THE "IRREGULARITIES" IN JIMMY CARTER'S CALIFORNIA CAMPAIGN FUNDING, WHICH GAINED FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT IN SOME PAPERS, AND PRESIDENT FORD'S ADDRESS TO THE INTERNATIONAL EUCARISTIC CONGRESS, IN WHICH HE PRAISED THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S ROLE IN "SAFEGUARDING THE MORAL VALUES OF THE MODERN WORLD," ACCORDING TO "DIARIO DE LISBOA."

4. "LEGIONAIRES' DISEASE": ONLY AUGUST 9 "O DIA" SAW FIT TO REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE "LEGIONAIRES' DDISEASE" CASE (REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE AS THE "ASSASSIN SICKNESS"). COVERAGE WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD.
JORDAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LISBON05419
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760307-0927
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760869/aaaacika.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <18 JAN 2005 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, MASS, TECH, PO, US, PK, IR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006